# MONTEREY NEWS

November 2002
VOLUME XXXII · Number 11

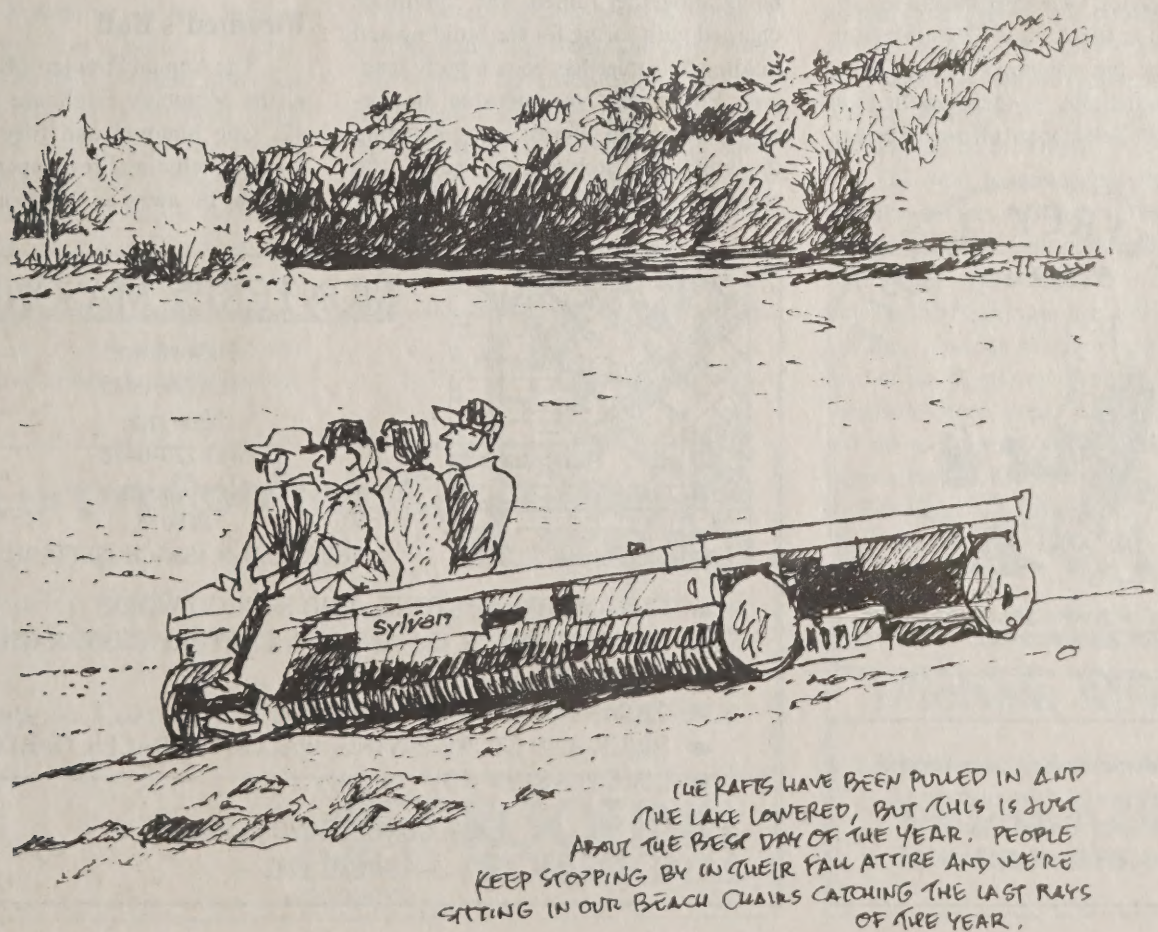

## The Town

### Town Hall Redux

A year and a half ago, as the planning for the second phase of the Town Hall got under way, the Selectboard was working to satisfy the expressed needs of all the constituencies who function there as well as anticipating future space requirements for a Town which seems determined to keep on growing. Although very few people currently occupy the space at any given time, many different boards need storage and meeting space. By the time of Town Meeting, a guesstimate had been developed from an estimate for the original 1300-sq.-ft. design. What no one foresaw at that time was that adding 300 square feet, finishing the basement office space, a heat recovery ventilator for the records storage room, and other finishing touches would actually put the proposed addition beyond the amount budgeted at Annual Town Meeting.

The latest estimate for a stick-built addition to the Monterey Town Hall is for $447,047. Of the $217,000 from borrowing originally appropriated for Phase 2, $51,960 was spent to complete Phase 1, for design fees, advertising, and blueprints. The additional $185,000 appropriated in 2002 brought the total available to $350,000. Back to the drawing board. After the Selectboard received no bids at all for a modular building plan, they have had to wrestle to bring the estimate into line with the amount approved by the voters. Architect David Bixby has also been searching for ways to bring the Board's desire for the perfect Town Hall into line with the money available.

At the most recent Select meeting, a plan finally emerged which will enable the Town to send the design out to bid, in hope of beginning construction in April. Items to be deleted from the scope of work are landscape buffer planting, concrete


Sylvan
THE RAFTS HAVE BEEN PULLED IN AND THE LAKE LOWERED, BUT THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR. PEOPLE KEEP STOPPING BY IN THEIR FALL ATTIRE AND WE'RE SITTING IN OUR BEACH CHAIRS CATCHING THE LAST RAYS OF THE YEAR.

block walls in the basement, and some of the bluestone paving material. Carpet will replace hardwood floors, doors will be framed in wood instead of steel, and the reception desk will be simplified. No work will be done to the original interior room. The major saving will be the elimination of air conditioning and the fresh air ventilation system for the records storage room. The new estimate is for $344,844, for a total cost to the Town for the Town Hall of $452,000. One more meeting is scheduled with David Bixby in mid-November. Bidding will occur in January. The Board plans to return to the Annual Town Meeting to request additional funds for air systems and front-room renovations, which could be between 50 and 100,000 dollars.

It was noted during the meeting that a similar expenditure for the firetruck generated far more discussion at Town Meeting than did the Town Hall. In any case the Town has committed itself to two substantial long-term investments this year.

## How We Pay

A Tax Classification Hearing was held on October 28 with Assistant Assessor Tim Taylor. Generally the money appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting divided by the valuation of the Town equals the tax rate. At the Classification Hearing, the Selectboard affirms or passes over some basic adjustments it has as options for apportioning the tax burden. For example it could decide to differentiate between residential and commercial rates or establish a residential exemption by charging a higher rate for nonresidents, as communities on Cape Cod do. The Board did not exercise any of these options. Mr. Taylor explained the paperwork that he has sent to the state. He hopes to receive approval for his application this week and will then be able to send out impact notices which serve to alert taxpayers to tax bills that may be higher than previously. The tax bills are expected to be out within three weeks. Taxpayers then have thirty days to file for abatements and exemptions. Although the tax rate is expected to drop, the amount people pay in property tax may rise due to higher valuations on their properties and the increased spending at the Annual Town Meeting.

## Edith's House

When Edith Wilson left her home to Monterey, she envisioned a contribution to the life of the Town. Sadly the house has been neglected and is in danger of being altogether ruined. The committee charged with caring for the building and guiding its future has been largely inactive. Fortunately an individual has recently expressed interest in resuscitating the building in exchange for using it as a residence. It may already be too late, but at least we have an opportunity to take a fresh look at the legacy left by one of Monterey's most devoted citizens.

## Opportunities Abound

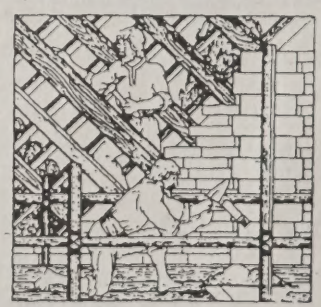
When a piece of property is taken out of Chapter 61, the Town has the right of first refusal on a sale for 120 days. Land on Hupi Road with frontage on Lake Garfield was offered to the Town in September. The Selectboard offered it to the state for a possible boat ramp, although the steep grade and close neighborhood does not lend itself to that use. Recently a nearby resident came to the Board to urge them to consider the land for the Town. While it might not serve as a Town Beach, it could be an ideal spot for other ways to enjoy our lake. As the lakeshore becomes increasingly developed, it becomes less accessible to the community and there may never be another opportunity to preserve this open space for the Town. The Board agreed to take no action and encouraged the resident to explore the options. The option on a 78-acre parcel that the State wants to add to Beartown State Forest will be ceded to them.

## Firemen's Ball

The Annual Firemen's Ball was held at the Monterey Firehouse on October 12. One hundred and fifty people attended, including fire company members from as far away as Windsor. Though it

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.





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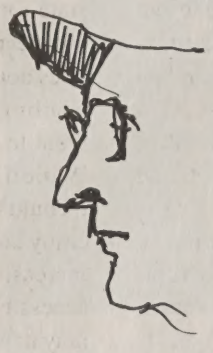
coincided with a statewide Fire Prevention Week, Chief Tryon said that the Ball was primarily a social occasion rather than a fund-raiser. He said that Monterey Fire Co. members are currently completing a 100-hour training with fire company members from seven other towns in the area. When asked to comment on the need for more firefighters in the coming years, he said he felt confident that Monterey was in better shape than many other small towns and that several new members are currently training.



### My Way or the Highway

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes appears before the Selectboard every week to report on the Highway Department and related items. He reported that the EPA will be requiring changes in operations at the Town Shed to minimize pollution and runoff of salt sand and fuel. Driveway permits were reviewed. Complaints about early closing at the transfer station were noted. Mr. Forbes will attend a storm management seminar on November 13 and another seminar called "Let's Build a Truck." Mr. Forbes provided the Board with a list of road projects to be undertaken in the next six years and beyond along with possible funding sources. A meeting will be held with the Public Access Board on Monday, November 4, at 11 a.m. to discuss the boat ramp issue. The Board reassured Jim Edelman of the Park Commission that Mr. Forbes will be responsive to them in getting things done. New street signs which appeared unannounced ignited some positive as well as negative comments. While there is general agreement that they are more easily seen and easier to maintain, a number of people felt that the old vertical signs did the job very well and were more appropriate and in keeping with neighboring towns. The most troubling part for most was that they had no opportunity to be involved in the decision, as even the Board was out of the loop. The Town paid Hallt Sales $1,295 for 27 plates and the brackets and posts.

### By the Way

A fair amount of interest has surfaced in a T-1 line. Those interested should contact Len Simon. The State finally certified us as having only $31,000 in Free Cash. Rob Clausen is retiring as Electrical Inspector effective the end of the year.

There were six false alarms in one week requiring response by the Police Department. Two were in the middle of the night to the same residence. Homeowners whose security systems routinely malfunction incur fines, and these fines may well be increased by the Town to encourage a solution. Chief Backhaus reported on some of the training being made available by FEMA for emergency and terrorism response. Several auto accidents resulted in charges being brought, and acts of vandalism were reported along Wellman and New Marlborough Roads.

— Michele Miller

## Community Dinners Schedule for 2002–2003

It's time for the monthly Monterey Community Potluck Dinners to start up again. This month, in celebration of the harvest season, the first dinner will be **Wednesday, November 13, 6–8 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement.** The Bottom of the Bucket Band, who delighted us in their public debut at LakeFest this summer, will treat us once again to a program of music following dinner. If you missed them this summer, don't miss this treat of local talent again.

The Monterey Community Dinners have become a town tradition spanning roughly the past twenty-five years and three incarnations. They have always provided an opportunity for townspeople to meet, socialize, sample everyone's food contributions, be entertained, and most of all to appreciate the wealth of personalities, talents, interests, and good will that characterize this community.

Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish of food to share (main dish, vegetable, salad, dessert, etc., enough to serve at least 8–10). Also, please bring your own plate and utensils (paper and plastic will be available if you forget). Coffee and tea will be provided.

This year, to make it easy to remember, the dinners will all be held on the second Wednesday of each month through June. You'll see a sign for each dinner outside the Meetinghouse a few days in advance. You can also pick up a schedule card at the Monterey General Store, the Roadside Store, and Town Hall, or just put these dates on your calendar now: **November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11.**

— Kathie Frome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## George Norian's Departure from Gould Farm

Since October of 1975, George Norian has been a resident of Gould Farm and Monterey. Due to acquiring Parkinson's Disease, he will be moving to Fairview Commons (formerly Willowood) on November 4th where he may better care for his health.

Throughout the years, George has frequently been in the local news for his exemplary works of voluntary service. He attributes his altruistic behavior to eight years of Jesuit education and to the inspiration of his Armenian father. George has adopted the Catholic Worker philosophy, taking a voluntary vow of poverty and participating in works of mercy. In February 2002, the *Berkshire Eagle* listed George as one of the "Berkshire Heroes." The article highlighted seventeen people who had made a significant impact in South County.

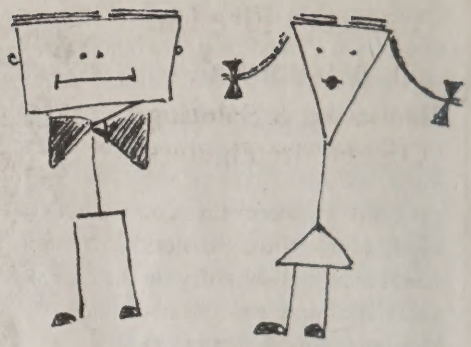
George leaned back in the chair and stroked his white beard when asked about his future plans. "I worked at the Farm for sixteen years, as a night watchman. I was a guest in 1962, so the Farm has been a part of my life for a long time. Since retiring, I have been volunteering quite a lot. I know practically everyone at Fairview Commons and now will get to know everyone even better. They have excellent activities and I won't be isolated or lonely. I plan to continue at Undermountain Elementary every other week, reading stories and helping kids with their homework. The second Friday of each month I'll go to New Marlborough Public Library where I talk with the kids. I have to slow down a bit, but will still get around."

When asked about his experience of living at Gould Farm, he responded, "The thing that impresses me most about this place is you don't find a staff interested in accumulating wealth; they come to serve and bring a smile. The biggest thing that flows around here I can sum up in one capitalized word, Love."

What advice does George have for the generations that follow? "Your health is your most precious possession. Give who you are to others and you'll find happiness."

We will all miss George's stories, wisdom, and presence at Gould Farm. However, he plans to visit and attend holiday events. To honor George, a celebratory tea will be held in the living room at Gould Farm on November 15th. The public is welcome to attend; for more information call 528-1804.

— M. Hamilton



## Coffee Club Sponsoring Christmas Puppet Show

The latest project of the Monterey Coffee Club for the young people of Monterey is a Christmas puppet show. On Sunday, December 22, master puppeteer Dr. Marmalaid (Meredyth Babcock) will bring her world-travelling show to the Monterey Meetinghouse at 2 p.m. After the show Santa will make a special visit to children ten years and under in the Meetinghouse basement.

Last spring the Coffee Club sponsored an Easter egg hunt that was much enjoyed, and the puppet show is another example of their interest in helping Monterey's young people. Dr. Marmalaid gave a wonderful show when she appeared at the Firehouse in September, so don't miss this one.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## Monterey Fire Co. 4th Annual Ball
### Honoring & Saluting County Fire Fighters

The Monterey Fire Co. Ltd. hosted Fire Fighters and their guests, fifty in all, from the New Marlborough Fire Department to the Windsor Fire Department.

At a sold-out event, over one hundred and fifty attendees enjoyed the music of the Carlin Big Band, playing mostly music from the 1940s and '50s, along with a sumptuous feast created by Del Rogers and Susan Donaghey.

If you were not there you missed a grand evening, so plan to attend the Fifth Annual Fire Fighters Ball, which will be held next Columbus Day weekend, October 11, 2003.

I wish to thank all the supporters of the October 12th event.

— Raymond W. Tryon, Chief

*Left row, back to front: Asst. Chief Maynard Forbes, Kathy Rodgers, F.F. Buddy Rodgers. Middle row, back to front: Chief Ray Tryon, Capt. Del Martin, Christine Martin, Lt. Shawn Tryon, F.F. Chris Tryon. Right row, back to front: Lt. P. J. Sheridan, Ginny Sheridan, Lt. Scott Sheridan, F.F. Scott Amstead, Jenifer Peck. Also attending but not at the table when the photo was taken were EMT Carly Detterman, Capt. Mark Makuc and his wife Mary, and F.F. John Makuc and his wife Cynthia.*


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## November Activities at Fairview Hospital

**Parkinson's Exercise Group:** Mondays, 1–2 p.m., South Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Garage. Call 413-528-8600, ext. 3140. Referral required. $5/session.

**Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, and Glucose Screenings:** Fridays, 9–noon. Drop-in. Free.

**Helping Hearts Support Group:** November 13, 2:30–4 p.m. "Exercise—You Set the Pace." Third-floor classroom.

**Healthier Beginnings:** Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7–9 p.m. Children's Health. Ground-floor classroom. Lecture with Siobhan McNally, Pediatrician. Refreshments will be served. Free. For more info call the Healthline at 413-447-3100.

**Mom's Group:** November 12 and 26, 10:30–noon. Support for Mom and Baby's First Year. With Gail Puntin, MSW, LICSW. Open to all. Free. Please preregister at 413-528-1470.

**"Moms with More":** November 5 and 19, 10:30–noon. Call 413-528-1470 to preregister and for more info. Call 413-528-0721 to arrange childcare.

**Screenings in the Community:** November 6, 12:30–1:30 p.m., Otis Town Hall. November 14, 9–noon, Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

**Senior Lunch Series:** November 14, 12 noon. "New Topics in Ophthalmology," Medical Library. Cost is $5.

**Baby-sitter Training Classes:** November 9 and 16, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Please preregister with Nanci Race at 413-228-3386. In Fairview Hospital's ground-floor classroom. Must attend both sessions for certification.

**Basic First Aid:** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m. In the ground-floor classroom.

**Infant and Pediatric Basic Life Support CPR:** Tuesday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m. In the ground-floor classroom.

**Heartsaver CPR:** For daycare providers, therapists, lifeguards, and so forth. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m. In the ground-floor classroom.

# BTF PLAYS! Presents *Mystery Sideshow* in Schools

"It's a show!"—"Oooooh!" "Wow!" "Cool!"

"It's a mystery!"—"Holy Moly!"

Such are the sounds of one hundred Farmington River Elementary School students as they head to their gym on a rainy Friday afternoon. As they enter, the youngsters—from grades four through six—see five Berkshire Theatre Festival Artists-in-Residence limbering up, stretching in front of the audience as actors would usually do backstage before a strenuous performance. Gradually, the actors assume mannequin-like poses, silent, staring straight ahead as their audience quiets down.

Then—BAM—rock music fills the gym, the actors start to dance energetically, and the students are hooked, absorbed by the vibrant sights and sounds of a talented troupe of young actors telling stories.

"We're servants of the story," announces James Barry, the top-hatted MC "stories to inform and entertain." Thus begins *Mystery Sideshow*, this year's traveling sixty-minute play performed all over Berkshire County by BTF PLAYS!, the Artists-in-Residence program. The five actors play dozens of roles in the four short stories that make up the show, written and directed by E. Gray Simons III, BTF PLAYS! Artistic Director. The show opens with a story about the Sphinx, moves on to the mystery of Easter Island, continues with a vignette of Amazon women, and ends with an audience favorite: Big Foot or the Abominable Snowman or, simply, the Yeti.

During the question-and-answer period following the show, many of the youngsters ask about the Yeti: Where can I read more about it? What did you use for the fur on the Yeti's face and hands? Do you believe in the Yeti? (Director Gray Simons finesses the question with "I hope it's true.") The Q-and-A session ends with "I liked the monster part the best!" Indeed.

Other audience questions focus on how to become an actor, a playwright, a director—skills that BTF Artists-in-Residence teach fourth-to-sixth graders in ten schools throughout Berkshire County. Erin Gorsky, the BTF artist who will be teaching at Farmington River this season, assures the students that she will answer all of the questions that have to go unasked because of time constraints.

Director Gray Simons thanks everyone, eliciting enthusiastic applause from the audience. Simons, who spent five years as a BTF Artist-in-Residence, is the son of a high school wrestling coach, which perhaps explains his initial interest in the rigorous physical conditioning of actors. Simons learned from his mentor Eric Hill the directorial technique that incorporates Suzuki, intense bodywork that encourages actors to connect with their audience in a visceral way, a method particularly productive with children's theatre. The physicality of the performance gives the story immediacy, so the children are hooked at the outset. And Simons' use of pop culture as metaphors enhances the contemporary sensibility he brings to the adaptations.

Simons chooses the Artists-in-Residence mostly on their talent, but an important consideration is their ability to adapt and become part of a cohesive ensemble. The high quality of this year's artists is testimony to BTF's attraction to theatre students and to Simons' perception of their capabilities.

Gorsky, a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut's theatre program, followed a now familiar path to BTF's acting program: she studied with Eric Hill, the talented teacher and director whose wife, Kate Maguire, is BTF's Producing Director. As a major force in UConn's theatre program, Hill has brought many talented students to BTF's attention. Gorsky auditioned for and received a role in a preseason production at BTF's Unicorn Theatre after being directed by Hill in a UConn production of *Hamlet*. She spent the summer teaching inner-city students at the Yale Children's Study program, and returned to BTF in September as one of the five lucky Artists-in-Residence.

Richard Johnson is the "dean" of the group, having been an Artist-in-Residence for four years. Johnson's favorite aspect of the BTF school-year program is the opportunity to watch underprivileged children develop talents they didn't know they had. "We teach in public schools that range from the richest to the poorest areas, and each has its unique attractions," Johnson said. Johnson's theatrical associations in the Berkshires are not limited to BTF. Next spring he'll be directing *Cash And Change*, a play by Peter Durgin, for the Town Players of Pittsfield, for whom he's directed other plays. Look for information about it in local papers prior to its May 9, 2003, opening.

All of the BTF artists have experience with children's theatre. James Barry, a UConn theatre graduate and Eric Hill disciple, was an instructor at the Hartford Children's Theatre, and ran their Discovery Company, which teaches children seven to nine years old the rudiments of theatre. Barry has been involved at the Unicorn Theatre since 2000, with major roles in several productions, most recently in *Brownstone*, an operetta performed in August. "It was quite a challenge to be in a musical," admitted Barry.


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Justina Trova, a Pittsfield native and the only "local" in this year's crop of Artists-in-Residence, applied to the BTF program because of her exciting experience at the Greylock Project in North Adams, where she helped children write plays and then perform in them at Mass MoCA. In addition to her work at BTF, she is also a member of the Royal Berkshire Improv Troupe ("RBIT" as she laughingly describes it), which performs primarily at the Main St. Stage in North Adams.

"Were any of you in *Monkey?*" asked one of the students in the Q-and-A session. Anna Evans, a South Carolina native who graduated in June from Virginia Tech, raised her hand amidst much ooohing and aahing from those who enjoyed the energetic production by the 2002 class of BTF apprentices. Evans was motivated to apply for the Artists-in-Residence program because of her attachment to the tightly-knit community the apprentices created. Her own love of theatre stems from the change in her life when she began acting at fifteen. "I want to help others develop the self-awareness that comes from being on stage," admits Evans. "Teaching is rewarding and enriching."

So, too, is performing. "We'll act anywhere they'll have us," quipped Evans, in response to where the touring company performs. BTF PLAYS! welcomes calls from schools, churches, synagogues, nursing homes—wherever there's a group willing to be seduced by the magic of live theatre. Adults will enjoy this performance as much as the students do—and bringing a child with you only enhances the experience.

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), BTF's performances are produced at minimal cost to the host. Those interested in scheduling a performance or who want more information should call Allison Racheles Bayles at 413-298-5536, ext. 19.

The BTF Artists-in-Residence also will be performing in a family holiday show at the Unicorn, running weekends from Thanksgiving until Christmas. You won't want to miss it!

— Laurily Epstein

## Bidwell House Appoints New Board Member

The Board of Directors of The Bidwell House Museum is pleased to welcome Paula Leuchs Moats. Paula is a newly returned resident of Monterey. She grew up in New York and Monterey, graduating from Berkshire Country Day School, Miss Hall's School, and Bryn Mawr College. She is the mother of two sons, Karl Leuchs Moats, a junior at Deerfield Academy, and Rudyard Bidwell Moats, a sixth former at the Eaglebrook School. Paula is employed by A. G. Edwards & Sons and specializes in investment banking. Her previous board experience includes being a member of the boards of the Manhattan Theater Club in New York, Bryn Mawr College Alumnae Board in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and Atlanta International School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Paula's interest in The Bidwell House Museum is very personal in that she is a direct descendant of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell. The line is traced as follows: from the Reverend Adonijah to Adonijah Jr., Lawson, Charles Augustus, Charles Alanson, Gertrude Marie, to Paula.

In addition, her mother, Gertrude Marie Bidwell Leuchs, is extremely knowledgeable about Bidwell genealogy and has donated numerous documents pertaining to the Bidwell family history to the museum. These documents are a tremendous resource for The Bidwell House Museum's research library.


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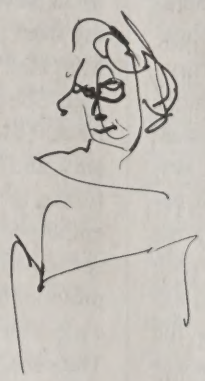
## Gould Farm News

At its recent annual meeting of the board of directors and associates Gould Farm elected Kevin Tobin, Ph.D., of Williamsburg, Mass., to the board. Elizabeth Goodman, of Housatonic, Joan Kopperl of West Stockbridge, Margaret Otenasek of Baltimore, Jamie Yost Vlcek of Monterey and Alfred Wilner of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, and Mill River were elected as associate members of the corporation.

Dr. Tobin, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island (Ph.D.), is a clinical psychologist working in the Pittsfield School Department. Dr. Tobin has worked in a variety of clinical settings including community health centers, a VA hospital and a substance-abuse treatment center.

Elizabeth Goodman, a graduate of Colby College and Harvard Divinity School, is pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ (Congregational). Ms. Goodman teaches eighth and twelfth grade English at Berkshire Country Day School. She has served as Clinical Pastoral Intern at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital and as Hospital Chaplain at the Cambridge Health Alliance. She is currently on the board of Hospice Care in the Berkshires and the Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ, Berkshire area.

Joan Kopperl earned her MSW from Fordham University in New York City where she was a psychotherapist in private practice until 2000. Mrs. Kopperl worked at Pittsfield's Hillcrest Hospital in the mental health department until 1989, as well as at South Beach Psychiatric Day Hospital and Maimonedes Hospital, both in Brooklyn. She organized a major real estate acquisition and renovation project for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and worked with ArtReach, a nonprofit arts organization that brings music, dance, theater, and mime to people who are institutionalized in Boston. Mrs. Kopperl serves on the Lenox Library board, the Stockbridge Bowl Association, and the Advisory Council of Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and is Vice Chair of the Board and Chair for Development at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center.



Margaret Otenasek, a retired surgical nurse, is a graduate of Union Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Mrs. Otenasek is a board member and corresponding secretary of the St. Joseph Medical Center Auxiliary in Towson, Maryland. A member of the leadership committee for the capital campaign at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, she has been an active volunteer at the F. X. Gallagher Services, a social service agency that cares for the people with mental retardation in Timonium, Maryland. Mrs. Otenasek has a particular interest in music and has worked with children and adults in local music theater in and around the Baltimore area.

Jamie Yost Vlcek is a psychiatric nurse at Gould Farm. She is a graduate of the associate degree program in nursing at Berkshire Community College. Mrs. Vlcek has worked as a fitness specialist and myotherapist and is a Hospice volunteer, childbirth educator, movement therapist, and vocalist.

Alfred Wilner, a civil engineer licensed in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, graduated from the School of Technology at City College of NY (B.C.E.) and earned an MBA from New York University, where he has been an adjunct professor teaching courses in building construction. Mr. Wilner serves on the Building and Grounds Committee at Gould Farm, advising on various building projects the Farm has undertaken.

Claudette Callahan of New Marlborough, Rev. Kathrene Duhon of Great Barrington, Cory Loder of North Egremont, and Matthew Foreman of Irvine, California, were reelected to the Farm's board.

Gould Farm is a psychosocial rehabilitation program that provides comprehensive services to adults with chronic mental illness. In operation since 1913, the Farm operates on 100 of its 650 acres of farmland and woodland in Monterey and in two suburban Boston communities. The Farm has a long history of providing successful treatment for individuals with schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder, bipolar disorder, and depression.

— Rita Kasky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***

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## CET Receives Energy Grant

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has been awarded Renewable Energy Trust grants totaling $325,000, according to State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr. "CET does an excellent job of helping residents and businesses lessen their impact on the environment," Nuciforo said about the nonprofit organization in Pittsfield. "This money will be used to spur economical development in western Massachusetts, while harnessing a renewable energy source." CET will use the funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) for several solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on farms, businesses, and cultural and educational institutions.

These grants are the first installation awards from the Solar-to-Market Initiative. The Renewable Energy Trust has committed $10 million to the initiative to expand the production and use of PV technologies. The solar PV industry provides hundreds of manufacturing, installation, and service jobs in the Commonwealth, while providing clean, electric power. CET's mission is "to research, develop, demonstrate and promote those technologies that have the least destructive impact on the natural ecology of the Earth." MTC is the state's development agency for renewable energy and the innovation economy. MTC works with companies to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in communities throughout the Commonwealth. MTC awarded $2.6 million in new grants from the state's Renewable Energy Trust program.

Glynis Oliver

## CET Receives Grant to Reduce Waste and Toxic Chemical Use

Congressman John W. Olver announced recently that the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has received a $99,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service to reduce waste and toxic chemical use in rural communities in western Massachusetts.

"Western Massachusetts is a leader in the state and nation in its commitment to recycling and environmental protection," Olver said. "CET has demonstrated an ability to produce innovative work and build successful partnerships. As CET provides programs on safer gardens and lawns, we will learn about healthier and more cost effective alternatives." CET is a nonprofit energy and resource conservation and waste management organization serving western Massachusetts, with offices in Pittsfield, Northampton, and Springfield.

CET will use the funding to educate residents about less toxic alternatives to chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used on lawns and gardens, and to teach schools and day care centers how to minimize the need to use toxic products. The funds will also allow CET to educate facility managers, municipalities, landscapers, and the public about safe alternatives, as well as train staff at garden centers and hardware stores on how to educate customers about safe use and proper disposal. In addition, CET will develop waste reduction activities in towns and provide waste management services to rural schools.

"By working to reduce waste, and especially toxic waste, CET offers critical help to rural communities and to the environment. The USDA is pleased to support this effort," said USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle. "CET has a track record of producing results and creating programs that can be shared with other communities."

For more information, residents may contact Joy Kirschenbaum at CET at 413-445-4556, 1-800-238-1221, or joyk@cetonline.org.


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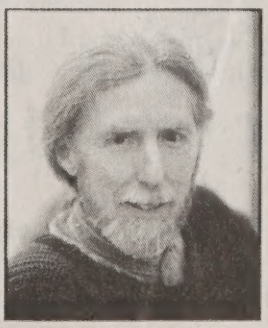

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# New Law Regulates Telemarketing Solicitation

## State "Do Not Call" Registry Established

Glynis Oliver

Most of us have had the unfortunate experience of being interrupted during dinner or at some other inopportune time by a telemarketer. These unsolicited calls are unnecessary and invasive, which is why I was pleased to support legislation that regulates telemarketing, and ensures that home privacy in Massachusetts is protected and respected.

The legislation, which was signed into law in August, requires the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation to establish and maintain a "Do Not Call" registry of consumers who do not wish to receive unsolicited telephone sales calls. Any consumer across the commonwealth, at no cost, may request to have their name and telephone number either added to or removed from the listing. State regulators will begin accepting requests by consumers to be listed on the registry after January 1, 2003, when the law officially takes effect.

The legislation also prohibits a telephone solicitor from intentionally installing or using a blocking device to circumvent a consumer's caller ID. A violation of this will result in a fine of up to $5,000 for each knowing violation, and any knowing violation that involves a consumer over the age of sixty-five will be subject to a minimum penalty of $1,500. Furthermore, solicitation telephone calls cannot be made to any Massachusetts consumers—even those who are not on the "Do Not Call" registry—between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

In addition to the new law passed in the commonwealth, current federal rules require individual telemarketers to comply when consumers ask them to remove their names from a calling list. The Federal Trade Commission advises people to clearly state the phrase "Put me on your do not call list" to telemarketers. I would encourage residents who are not interested in receiving unsolicited phone calls to add your name to the state "Do Not Call" registry in January, and in the meantime to tell telemarketers that you want to be placed on their individual "Do Not Call List." For more information or questions concerning telemarketers contact the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation toll free at (888) 283-3757 or the Consumer Protection and Information Division of the Office of the Attorney General at (617) 727-8400.

This law allows consumers who wish to prevent future interruptions caused by telemarketers to have the opportunity to be left alone. As always, please feel free to contact me in my district office (413-442-6810), or visit www.nuciforo.com, with any questions you may have about this or other state-related matters.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.


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## From the Meetinghouse . . .

A friend said to me the other day that her favorite religious holiday was coming up. Thanksgiving was just a short time away, the best holy day of the year.

And I said to her, "But Thanksgiving isn't a religious holiday. It isn't a 'holy day' at all. It's a national holiday, when we give thanks for our nation and its abundance, and when we try to share the wealth."

And she said to me, "In Exodus 23, the Lord said to Israel, 'Three times a year you shall hold a festival for Me: You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; and the Feast of the Harvest, of what you sow in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather the fruits of your work.'" My friend concluded, "Jews still observe these holidays today."

And I said, "But that's not what Thanksgiving is based on. It's not a Jewish holiday."

And she said to me, "A chant from the Pawnee tribe of North America goes like this:

*Behold! Our Mother Earth is lying here.*
*Behold! She gives of her fruitfulness.*
*Truly her power she gives to us.*
*Give thanks to Mother Earth who lies here.*

*Behold on Mother Earth the growing fields!*
*Behold the promise of her fruitfulness!*
*Truly her power she gives to us.*
*Give thanks to Mother Earth who lies here.*

*Behold on Mother Earth the spreading trees!*
*Behold the promise of her fruitfulness!*
*Truly her power she gives to us.*
*Give thanks to Mother Earth who lies here."*

My friend concluded, "Even still Native Americans give thanks to the Earth for providing so well for them."

And I said, "But Thanksgiving isn't a Native American holiday."

And she said to me, "When Jesus was with his disciples in a deserted place, a crowd came and gathered around him. And soon the crowd became hungry. But all that the disciples had were five loaves of bread and two fish. So Jesus told them to sit the crowd down. Then he took the food, looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves. Then he distributed the food among the crowd. And all ate and were filled. Those who had eaten were five thousand in number."

And I said to my friend, "So Jesus performed a miracle that fed a crowd of five thousand. What does that have to do with Thanksgiving?"

And she said to me, "In the Qur'an, God and the angels say this to the people: 'We give the earth life, and produce grain of which you eat. And We produce orchards and date-palms and vines, and We cause springs to gush forth, that you may enjoy these fruits. Will you not then give thanks? Glory to God.'"

And now I was confused. "But it's not an Islamic holiday. It isn't a religious holiday at all. Thanksgiving wasn't based on any of these scriptures."

And she said, "I know. Thanksgiving is a national holiday, a feast-day on the fourth Thursday of November that only we in the United States celebrate. But remember this, that the United States of America was the first nation in the world to guarantee to each of its citizens the right to give thanks in the way that we each want. It was the first nation in the world to guarantee the right to each of its citizens to give thanks for the miraculous abundance of the fruit of the earth in whatever way each of our religious traditions tells us is right. So Thanksgiving is a national holiday. And it's not Jewish, and it's not Native American, and it's not Christian, and it's not Islamic. But it is religious. It is a holy day, make no mistake."

And I said to her, "Amen."

— Elizabeth Goodman

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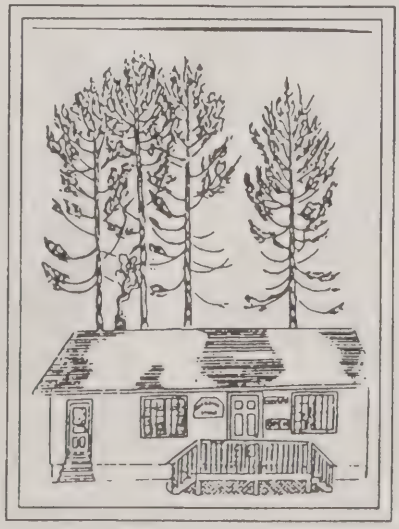

## A Monterey Summer

*Green garden snakes slide*
*around orange salamanders*
*as I dangle in a hammock*
*between two short trees.*
*The backyard rolls*
*in humps down*
*to the white woods*
*as sun peeks through leaves*
*scattered above my head.*
*I read Vonnegut*
*and pause to snap*
*my fingers at Shokey*
*for eating dry grass*
*and dandelions.*
*He looks up at me*
*and trots over*
*to nuzzle my fingertips*
*as his muscles pump*
*underneath warm amber fur.*

— Jake Weisman

## Riding the Tide

*Riding the tide,*
*The sun beats down*
*On my back,*
*Glaring,*
*Like an angry mother*
*At her disobedient child.*

*I shoot forward*
*Gliding toward the shore*
*On the wave's frothy crest*
*I am Apollo,*
*Pulling my chariot*
*Across the sky.*

*The wave deserts me,*
*Shaking free its final burden,*
*Rushing toward shore*
*In freedom.*

*I am a baby bird now*
*Alone*
*I must fend for myself.*

*I am eager to feel*
*The rush*
*Once again*
*Of a perfectly timed wave.*

— Rebecca Sisselman

## Nature

*The fields in fall.....corn stalks cut down, blue skies, light winds,*
*autumn in the air.....winter soon to come.....think about future snow*
*shoeing in these same fields.....cold winter days, sunny mid-afternoons,*
*cold, dark nights dreaming about spring and future flowers.....and*
*maybe even attempt a vegetable patch of manageable size!*

— Beth Harlan

# Down In The Hole

*speaking of flamenco pouring*
*some previous year's harvest,*
*there's Miriam, so sweet, in black,*
*who says "New York is like a man!"*
*but what she really means is:*
this world survives on tenderness!
*then this plant walks by in high heels*
*with legs like no philodendron,*
*reminding us of mortality*
*and ... we'd better dance while we can*

*flaming maples in October winds,*
*no wonder the gods were jealous,*
*obsessed with immortality . . .*
because death is, life is precious
*shaman of the contracted selves,*
*in your hilarious healing*
*read ladybug constellations*
*on the sad ceiling of our sins*
*these are days of honest omens*
*and ... we'd better dance while we can*

*you work like a highland beaver*
*to get black radish to taste sweet*
*as Miriam pouring autumn*
*fresh and eager as the new moon*
*in delirious afternoons*
*to draw a curtain on the night*
*'though still a bit of bitterness*
your medicinal reality
is your own pharmacology
farm ecology
*and ... we'd better dance while we can*

*we're all addicts in varied style,*
*hooked on one thing or another*
*for me, it's black spanish leather,*
*pouring into November*
*the last remnants of abundance*
'till all about is nakedness
*no masks and no obscurities*
*'till tenderness is what remains—*
*sweet Miriam in the darkness*
*and ... we'd better dance while we can*

*confess! confess! confess and stretch into the sun!*
*Bare your mortal tender chest!*
*only Now is our precious chance!*
*no wonder the gods were bored,*
*with no edges to ride upon —*
*Miriam asks in the night:*
*"Is there anything else you want?"*
*bitter sweet radish, spanish wine*
a winter full of tenderness
*and ... we'd better dance while we can*

— R. Zukowski

# Turkeys, to Make You Thankful

This is November in America: time to vote, time to be thankful. As I think about these two seasonal pleasures, I find they come together in the person (or in the bird) of the turkey. Am I voting for the turkey? Probably not, though I am planning at least one write-in, but there was a time in our history when the turkey appeared on the congressional ballot. He was put there by Benjamin Franklin as his nominee for National Bird. I'm sure the ballot-counting methods in those days were accurate. In the race for National Bird, the turkey lost by one vote.

What subtle differences might we see today if the turkey appeared on our flags, currencies, and official documents instead of the eagle? What attitudes might we embrace, however subliminally, if we used slogans like "The turkey has landed" or "Soar like a turkey"?

To answer these questions we must know something of the turkey. First of all, he is a true native, inhabiting these lands long before the first Europeans came. Cortez came to the New World looking for gold and found turkeys. He tortured the Indians and still didn't get any gold to speak of, but he did take home a lot of slaves. He also took turkeys. These were the variety still found today in Mexico. They did well in Spain and around the Mediterranean, and years later found themselves on the boat again, this time headed for North America with the European colonists who thought they could raise turkeys in New England.

Those Mexican turkeys did not do so well here, but fortunately there were already plenty of native turkeys, *Meleagris gallopavus silvestris*, adapted to life in the north woods. These are the ones we see today in our pastures and hayfields, also on the label of a well-known holiday beverage. Look carefully and you will see that the tail feathers of these local birds are tipped in chestnut, not white. The white-tipped variety can no doubt be observed on beverage labels south of the border, but here the turkey feathers blend in with our fall oak and beech leaves.

Anyone who has never seen a turkey might be tempted to attribute this to camouflage coloration. The truth is that a turkey is a complicated personal appearance artist and "blend" is not always the word. For one thing, turkeys are large, often four feet long from stem to stern. They don't fly much, but when they do, their wingspan can be six feet across. There is no way to hide such a big bird with protective coloring alone: the turkey has to want to hide. When she needs to disappear, the hen turkey becomes furtive. She melts into the woods and holds still. She sits close on the nest. For this reason, the wildlife management experts schedule turkey-hunting (managing) season in early May, when the hens are on the nests. The idea is that any turkeys killed are likely to be males. Male turkeys do not incubate eggs or participate in family life after mating season. They are up and active and visible to the hunters.

Male turkeys are also quite visible, and audible, during their mating season. When they fan their tails and puff up their body plumage, they triple their already


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respectable, resplendent bulk. They can spread their fan in an instant, moving each feather with delicate precision, using tiny skin muscles. The tom turkey also droops his wings and rattles the quills of his feathers to produce an irresistible clicking sound.

In addition to all this show, the face and neck of the gobbler, or male turkey, are capable of quick color changes from blue through purple to red to pink to white. His face is decorated with attractive lumps and bumps known as caruncles and he sports large flaps below his chin called wattles. As if this were not enough to attract the ladies, he also carries a handy appendage called a snood, which drapes rakishly over his bill. Not only can the snood change color in a flash, like the caruncles and wattles, but it can also suddenly grow much longer. I don't say the bald eagle is unattractive, I just point out its lack of colorful snood and caruncles.

Here are a few other things we know about the turkey. It makes a wonderful dinner. Most people have a preference for either light or dark meat, which in our family have always been known as "shirt or pants." The white meat, or shirt, comes from the turkey's breast, and domestic turkeys have been bred to produce a lot of this. One variety I have heard about is called a Big-Breasted Bronze. Of course all meat is muscle, but what makes white meat white is its lack of blood supply. A muscle without plenty of blood to carry fuel to its cells and take waste away may be big, but it is not a very useful muscle over the long haul. The breast meat is the turkey's wing muscle. He can fly, but not very far and not for long. I am betting the Big-Breasted Bronze does not fly at all.

Turkeys don't need to fly much. In the wild they move quickly over the ground on their long strong legs (dark meat), scratching easily through deep snow to find acorns in the winter. Their feet are big, leaving chicken-type tracks that are sometimes six inches long. If startled they can fly up into a tree, which is also where they go to roost at night.

Some turkeys eat hickory nuts, which anyone can tell you are hard to crack. Like chickens and other gallinaceous birds, turkeys have gizzards for grinding up the tough things they eat. Somehow, some scientist or possibly seamstress, or both, discovered that a turkey can ingest a steel sewing needle and then bend it up in its gizzard without perforating the lining of the gizzard. So the gizzard is both tough and strong. Someone (the seamstress again?) also discovered that the gizzard can exert four hundred pounds per square inch of pressure. The gizzard does not grind well without a good supply of pebbles. So turkeys and chickens need to have access to little rocks which they "eat" and which then lodge in the gizzard until they become "dull" or too smooth to be good grinders. Then they are passed through the digestive system and replaced with new pebbles that have good edges for grinding.

I like turkeys. When I see them humping along they make me think of buffalo and dinosaurs. I am impressed that turkeys live and thrive here, despite so many intrusions upon their habitat, also our difficult winter. There was a period of about one hundred years when the turkeys had been hunted to extinction in these parts. They were brought back, reintroduced from the Allegheny Mountains of New York, and since then some of our New England turkeys have been sent off from Vermont to repopulate a hunted-out area of Ontario. I hope they do well there. Who knows, maybe they will make it onto the ballot in Canada, maybe even onto the flag right next to the maple leaf. I know it is a good design because I see it nearly every day in the fall around Monterey.

— Bonner J. McAllester


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## Autumn's Astrology

If there is a divine influence of the stars upon mortal behavior on Earth, we can watch and marvel as autumn brings its own prophecy of the winter ahead, as well as its own agenda to prepare for what lies over the horizon.

Along our country roads, when the leaves of *Euonymus* (burning bushes) flame out and fall after a heavy frost, the morning sun takes longer to burn off the layers of mist that hang suspended over the alder covers and lowlands bordering our streams. Before the day is out, the migratory woodcock that dropped in to rest and feed will be waiting for a prevailing wind to help them on their journey. There are local birds who nested here as well, but they too will be gathered up ahead of a cold front, like grains of sand in the eye of a wave, and before the ground freezes their numbers are swept away, and they are gone.

At a time in our Northern Hemisphere when most creatures are ready to leave the time and place of reproduction behind, the rainbow trout at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery are a curious and notable exception: they are ready to spawn. Near their circular pools, the hatching house has been prepared to receive their eggs, with trays under running

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water to simulate natural conditions. By midwinter the eggs will hatch into eyesacs, and by spring into fry, and then by summer into fingerlings.

Strangely but annually at this season, snapping turtle eggs are also hatching out. David Ziegler, a regular member of the meetinghouse coffee club, and a dyed-in-the-wool naturalist, tells me that he found some of them, and that they will, like any other self-respecting reptile, hibernate with their progenitors, "if they know what is good for them." For fur-bearing creatures as well, it is time to fatten up for the big sleep. With the sun lower on the horizon every day, as soon as the natural harvest of food runs out, the biological clock will be ticking away at an ever slower metabolic rate until that time for the long sleep has come.

For those of us who live a mile or so east of town, our neighborhood black bear, has just been seen crossing Route 23 by the home of Ed Briggs, another member of the coffee group. She has two yearling cubs (watch out) that will follow her, perhaps under a brush pile in David McAllester's woods, when there is nothing more to eat. They will sleep with her and stay together until spring. She will then send them on their own way, but will not give birth again until the following spring.

Colder nights, the smell of smoke from a woodstove, concord grapes ripened on the vine, and snow geese high over the deciduous trees are all indications that paths of planets have passed in the sky, and that autumn's orchestrations are gathering force.

The snow geese fly in closer formation than their Canada cousins, their wing beats faster, their clarion more high pitched, and as they head south, there seems to be some sense of urgency in the timing of their exodus.

— George Emmons

## Klezamir at Sandisfield Arts Center

Described as the "ultimate American Klezmer band," Klezamir will appears at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, November 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 at the door.

Klezmer ("musician" in Yiddish) combines the soulful cry of Middle Eastern music, the exciting beat of Eastern European dance music, and the good-time feel of Dixieland. In the true klezmorim tradition, Klezamir's music is infused with a wide range of styles from Israeli to jazz to country, blues, classical, and folk influences, creating new Klezmer sounds, as well as breathing new life into old songs.

The five-member band includes Felicia Shpall, Jim Armenti, Joe Blumenthal, Keith Levreault, and Amy Rose. Seth Rogovoy, noted Klezmer critic, calls lead singer Felicia Shpall "a combination of raw talent, abundant technique and unquantifiable soul."

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. For reservations or more information, call 413-258-3309.

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Sincerely, *Linda*

# Thanksgiving Threads

On Columbus Day weekend, the Friends of Berkshire Community College sponsored their annual quilt show. The day after it closed, I stopped at The Pumpkin Patch in Lee to get a close-up view of the quilt which was, for me, Best in Show. (Easy for me to say, since I had a Sunday morning change of plans and didn't get to this year's show at all. But no matter what else had been on display, the third Crawford Challenge Quilt gets my Best in Show vote. And just because I'm prejudiced doesn't mean I'm wrong.)

It's a watercolor quilt. That means it's planned so that the fabrics are arranged from lightest to darkest in a way that blends the tones. All the values, lightest to darkest, flow smoothly for the eye.

A watercolor quilt can be arranged so that it starts with its darkest-colored pieces at one corner and gets progressively lighter until its lightest square is at the diagonally opposite corner. Or a quilt, like this one, can be made of a number of watercolor-style blocks. That means each block is made up of a variety of light to dark fabrics, cut into squares and arranged so that it reflects a play of light that seems soft and diffused, rather like the play of light on water. Dozens of quilters bought "Crawford Quilt Block Kits," put their watercolor blocks together, and returned them in time for display at the store. Then, "The Pumpkin Patch Crawford Crew"—Dan and Sue Sullivan and machine quilter Linda Collins—set, bound, and quilted the piece just in time for the show.

In this quilt, the fabric is cut into squares and half-square triangles, since cutting the fabric small enough to make a watercolor wash effect with just squares was, at best, impractical. And each block has a deliberate line of separation between the light and dark halves, so that the blocks have a "log cabin" effect.

Color tones on this dazzling beauty include deep Concord grape, lilac, mauve, pink, pale peach. Now that the blocks are set side by side, stitched together, bound and quilted, the quilt has a light-and-shadow jeweled effect. In short, it shimmers.

Actually, they shimmer. Enough blocks were turned in to create a bed quilt large enough to warm a queen-sized bed, and to make two large decorative wall or lap quilts, too.

This year's Crawford Challenge Quilts will be donated to The Elizabeth Freeman Center. Find out about the Freeman Center at 528-2328 or, in Pittsfield, 413-499-2425. For more information on our annual Crawford Quilt Block Challenge, contact me at 528-5557, or Sue Sullivan at The Pumpkin Patch, 243-1635. Or drop in at the store, 58 Center Street in Lee.

— Mary Kate Jordan


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# Peace and Security for all People

My life journey has recently led me on a path to the front door of the United Nations in New York City. The magnitude of its size and profound influence on the world was at first daunting. Working on a project supporting the UN International Day of Peace and Cease-fire helped me to understand that the UN is simply a group of ordinary people working to fulfill its extraordinary mission for world peace.

Peace and security for all people is the vision and purpose of our United Nations. It is the only world body of its kind with a sacred intention to help establish a peaceful planet. From the immense human suffering endured by civilization during World War II, the seeds of peace were planted by the wise leaders from the international community of that era.

We hear about the UN often in the news, and my guess is that most Americans do not know some basic facts about the UN, facts that would help you to relate and contribute to the UN's profound mission. The following is an excerpt from a UN publication.

"The United Nations (UN), is a complex, somewhat mythical world which serves as the meeting-ground for political powers from around the world. It is unique among international institutions, considering the vast array of tasks entrusted to it. The UN is involved in all aspects of human activity; it therefore plays an important role in the international community, in spite of the inadequate human and financial resources at its disposal.

"In 1945, the countries that emerged victorious from the greatest armed conflict in history proclaimed their resolve 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.' This solemn declaration opens the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

Facing a world in ruins after the Second World War, the 'United Nations'—named by Franklin D. Roosevelt, war-time president of the United States—declared its faith in the fundamental human rights, justice, social progress and the value and dignity of the individual.

"Those nations committed themselves to unite to live together in peace. Their Governments thus decided to create a great new organization, which would be strong and universal and which would enable them to achieve their goal of world peace. Such an institution would provide for them a forum for discussing the problems facing people around the world and finding ways together to help in their resolution.

"The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945. The Charter is, in a practical sense, its constitution. It sets out the rights and duties of the States that are to become its members and provides a structure for the functioning of the new institution.

"The major objectives of the UN are:

- To maintain peace and international security;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To implement international cooperation in the economic, social and humanitarian spheres;
- To promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- To establish a center where Member States can work together to achieve these common objectives.

"Our current Secretary General, Kofi Annan spoke to a group of students, inviting them to contribute to the mission of the UN. The following quote is taken from a UN publication entitled *Tell Me about the United Nations?* His invitation to support the UN is to all people from civil society.

*To build true peace and security throughout the world, we must ensure the human security of every person. That means the security of food, shelter, and health care, but also the right to education, to freedom of expression, to vote and to take part in decision-making. In short, it means guaranteeing all human rights for all.*

*The UN has no greater mission than that. To achieve it, we must use all our imagination and common sense—attributes we have been able to develop over more than half a century.*

*But we cannot do it alone. We need the support of people everywhere. That is why we seek to build awareness among citizens—especially young people like you, who represent the future. It is my sincere hope that all who read this book will understand how useful—indispensable, even—our institution is, but also the complexity of challenges before it. And I hope, finally, that it will inspire every reader to think about the ways of contributing to the work of building a better world for all."*

I would urge you all to look inside your own heart and find out what your own unique contribution is to creating a more peaceful world. If you are interested, more information about the UN can be found on www.un.org or feel free to call me (528-7914).

— Michael Johnson

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# The World of Alice O. Howell

Monterey has something very special to celebrate this fall with the publication of Alice O. Howell's *The Beejum Book*. Those of us familiar with Howell's other books and poetry and lucky enough to gather with her occasionally at Rosecroft know that nothing she writes or says is simple. At the same time, of course, it all is deceptively so.

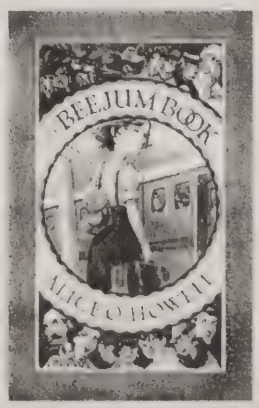
This wonderful book is first and foremost a delightful story for children. In it we follow the adventures of Thaddea King (Teak), a charming, bright and bold six-year-old who lives a nomadic existence traveling throughout Europe with her adored but constantly disappearing parents (Birdie and Thaddeus King, Jr.) A much-beloved Nanny ("the one person Teak never had to say good-bye to"), her trusty teddy bear Alfred Hampson, a wise and loving grandmother, and assorted relatives pop in and out of Teak's life, providing her with an approximation of a home base as well as a springboard for imaginative episodes. Curious and spirited, Teak relishes the fantasy world that she creates as an escape from her loneliness. One afternoon as she is supposed to be napping, her imagination takes her on the grandest adventure of her young life—aboard a train to the fantastic world of Beejumstan.

And what a world it is! Teak's first friend and guide is Lonesome the rabbit, the Ambassador-without-portfolio of Beejumstan. Entering the world of Beejumstan unlocks Howell's raucous glee in invention of characters with pitch-perfect names: Elmer Tucket and Horace Whortle, the train's conductors; sweet Mrs. Daisymouse; two parrots dressed like Arab sheiks named Ali Krakatoa and Ibn ben Nibl, lofty members of the Beejumstan Administration of Crackers; the intelligentsia of the land—Dr. Syzgy, Figg Newton the alchemist, Dr. Dimplehatcher of the Gooseflesh Institute, Professor Virgo Prunefiddle—and all manner of other fantastical inhabitants. Beatrix Potter, eat your heart out! The stream of endearing characters—usually animals in extraordinary outfits, all with wild and wooly names—goes on and on. Following Teak on her adventures in Beejumstan is like opening the most enticing box of exotic chocolates and savoring the delicious array.

Pat Pinegar

*Alice O. Howell, with Lonesome*

Those familiar with the author's other work will not be surprised to find that, delightful as her story is, the lessons are not just for children. Jungian psychologist, astrologer, philosopher, poet, and impish wise woman of Monterey, Howell provides her older readers with the chance to shed the "knowledge" of their years and travel with Teak with renewed eyes and minds in search of true wisdom. Each of Teak's encounters provides both a wonderful yarn and a life lesson. Some example: On nonsense: "Nonsense is every bit as important as sense, because sometimes it's the last resort to help people come to their senses! . . . Sense is only the other side of nonsense. . . . And you don't know what you've got until you've seen both sides." On facts: "A fact is a little piece of knowledge or evidence that is absolutely useless until you connect it to something else. . . . Wisdom only comes when you turn facts into information and information into knowledge and knowledge . . . into experience. And that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Praise for Alice O. Howell's new book

This delicious, exhilirating marvel of a book has a pace, wit, and spiritual depth that will enchant children, galvanize adults to rediscover the wonder and creativity of their childhood selves, and ensure a wide readership. *The Beejum Book* will take its place with *The Little Princess* and *Charlotte's Web* as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey, author of *The Direct Path*

Read this book to yourself or read it aloud to a young child, and delight in the hidden ironies of language and the pearls of wisdom you trip over when you least expect them. As *Alice in Wonderland* magically mirrored the Victorian world, so *The Beejum Book* mirrors ours.

— Marion Woodman, author of *Addiction to Perfection*

Gutsy humor, outlandish language, serious tomfoolery

— Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*

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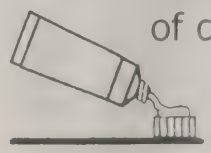

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means *living*. Not just everyday living, mind you, but living and paying attention, and noticing at the same time! Connecting what goes on outside you with what goes on inside you, and what goes on inside you with what goes on outside you." On religion: "All human beings are alike in what they are given inside. The 'way' the different religions talked about answers the question 'How?' not 'Where?' or 'What?' and the 'hows' are all the same. . . . It's the 'wheres' and 'whats' that are all different. Which makes life far more interesting. People in your world have been killing each other thinking there are different 'hows' and there is only one." Could somebody please pass this book around the White House and the Pentagon? On meaning: "Consider the obvious! . . . You can learn the biggest things from the littlest ones." On reality: "Reality is what's really going on while you think something else is. There is another Bubble and it's hidden inside the Bubble of your world but most people can't see it!"

Ultimately Teak, along with the reader who accompanies her, becomes enlightened to the awareness that we all live in more than one "Bubble," or world, and that the lucky among us are open to perpetual journeys among them. Teak finds her way to Gezeebius, the Wise Old Man of Beejumstan, who reveals to her all the power and mystery that she holds within herself. The success of the spell that Howell casts over her reader is that we leave the book enriched by this very same power and mystery.

Get a copy of *The Beejum Book* for your favorite child—and another for the lucky child in you!

— Barbara Bonner


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## Polarizing Articles

To the Editor:

Since the events of September 11, 2001, I have noted polarizing, provocative, probably hurtful commentary in many articles and letters in the *News*. For many years I have looked forward to each addition of the *News* to learn about town events and issues, poetry, wonderful nature articles, and the personals. I wonder if other readers agree that contentious political issues should not become a regular feature of the *News?* There are so many other sources for this type of information.

— Edwin A. Salsitz, Monterey

## The View from Washington

To the Editor:

We got to Washington, DC on Saturday morning (October 26) after a night of heavy rain. The buses piled up along Constitution Avenue and as we climbed out by the thousands, stretching and rubbing our eyes, the dream began.

What a beautiful city! Wide avenues, broad parks. The Vietnam War Memorial, curving away in exquisite simplicity of statement: these are the losses. Lincoln keeps his giant stone vigil nearby, sitting in mourning, himself. I could swear that while I watched he sighed and shook his head over so much promise and so much grief. He should know about war, and about what Jesse Jackson later referred to as "one-bullet diplomacy."

The clouds were lifting slowly, the Washington Monument still hiding its head in the mist, the crowd still gathering. We didn't yet know what this day would bring, that this would be the biggest peace march since Vietnam, the greatest gathering of diverse Americans representing all sorts of organizations but all singing the same chant: "No blood for oil!" (By the way, rap has livened up the beat since Vietnam and we now have: "No . . . blood . . . . for oy-yul!")

As one of your locals on the Washington beat, I am here to tell you the truth about the numbers. It is not the case that "organizers were disappointed" and it is not the case, as reported by NPR, that there were 10,000 marchers. Organizers were thrilled. There was an ocean of people, clearly more than 200,000. I would look to the international media for accuracy in counting, not to those blue and white helicopters buzzing overhead. The buses kept on coming. The crowd at the rally was thick and vast, the march to the White House filled the avenues curbstone to curbstone and was blocks and blocks long.

Not only were we great in number, we were great in spirit, too. We had signs and costumes, masks and music. We helped each other out and apologized for bumping. We prayed and sang. We shouted, "THIS is what . . . democracy looks like!" and danced to that beat in the street.

I had a long night coming home on the bus, and although I did not sleep, I had a dream. I dreamed I went to Washington with 200,000 people who gave me hope and strength. They also awakened something in me that I thought had died for good. I came home proud to be an American.

— Bonner J. McAllester, Monterey


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## Remembering
## Jeanne J. Costa Zad

Jeanne J. Costa Zad, 76, of Vero Beach, Florida, and a summer resident since 1959 of 5 Harbour Lane, Monterey, died September 30, at Fairview Hospital.

She was born in Queens, N.Y., August 3, 1926, daughter of the late Eugene and Isabel Battistelli Costa. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Queens College in 1947 and her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Queens College in 1962. She taught reading at Gotham Elementary School in N.Y., retiring in 1981. She had also taught at the Elmond and Baldwin Elementary Schools on Long Island, N.Y.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, William J. Zad, whom she married May 7, 1959, in New York; two daughters Bobbie-Jean Casserly of Merrick, Long Island, and Doreen Campbell of Mt. Ephran, New Jersey; one sister, Evelyn Gubbins of Savor, Long Island; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 5th at Birches-Roy Funeral Home. Burial followed at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Maggie Leonard

*Cynthia Hoogs, Roger Tryon, Rob Hoogs, and Barbara Tryon at May retirees' celebration*

## Remembering
## Claude H. Burke

Claude H. Burke, 100, of New Marlborough Road died on Friday morning, October 18, 2002, at Laurel Lake Center where he had been a resident since March 2002.

Born on February 9, 1902, in Monterey, he was the son of John Thomas and Mary Dowd Burke. He attended the Monterey School and retired in 1975 as the caretaker of "Brookmead," the Eaton estate in Monterey.

He was a life member of the Monterey United Church of Christ and of the Izaak Walton League of Otis.

His wife of sixty-seven years, Grace Kimberly Burke, died October 19, 2001.

He is survived by their son, Russell Burke of Becket; five grandchildren, William, Michael, Cindy, Timothy, and Joseph; five great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Victoria, Angela, Nicholas-Michael, and Casey; and one great-great-granddaughter, Jerlynn-Abigail.

He was also predeceased by one grandson Russell Burke, Jr.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Monterey United Church of Christ through the Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.


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## Personal Notes

This month's birthdays belong to **Sudi Baker** and **Heather Ferrin** on the 2nd, sisters **Emily McTavish** on the 8th and Rebecca Mctavish on the 9th, **Lisa Smyle** on the 10th, **Andi Dunlop** on the 11th, **Mariah Olds** and **Kenny Pratt** on the 12th, **Cody Amstead** on the 18th, **Jenny Brown** and **Kirsten Quisenberry** on the 25th, **Kerry Snyder** on the 26th, and **Nicole Amidon** on the 28th. Happy Birthday to you all.

Anniversary greeting to **Nick and Betty Wool** on the 1st and **Barbara Bonner and Maurice Stiefel** on the 25th.

Remember, if you have a birthday or anniversary or accolade you would like to share with your neighbors in Monterey, send the information to me at POB 211 by the 15th of the month. Thanks.

— Deborah Mielke

## Contributors

We are grateful to the following for recent contributions to the *News*.

Susan Sellew
Walter & Judith Parks
Peter Murkett & Michele Miller
Arnold & Janet Garber

## Calendar

**Every Monday (except holidays):** Selectboard meeting, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Town Offices.

**Monday, November 11:** Veterans Day. Town Offices, Library closed.

**Wednesday, November 13:** Community Dinner, 6–8 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Entertainment by Bottom of the Bucket Band. See p. 3.

**Thursday, November 14:** Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Saturday, November 16:** Klezamir presents an evening of Klezmer music, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Tickets $15 at door; reservations, information 413-258-3309. See p. 17.

**Wednesday, November 20:**
Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.
Full Moon

**Saturday, November 23:** Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by David Kaynor. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

## The Observer

### September 26–October 25

| | |
|---|---|
| High temp. (10/3) | 78° |
| Low temp. (10/23, 24) | 22° |
| Avg. high temp. | 58° |
| Avg. low temp. | 39.1° |
| Avg. temp. | 48.6° |
| Total rainfall | 4.56" |

Precipitation occurred on 13 days.

**Thursday, November 28:** Thanksgiving Day.

**Saturday, November 30:** Hanukkah begins.

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics formatted for PC. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347.

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*Maureen Banner, pp. 3, 8, 17; George Emmons, p. 16;*
*Joan Kleban, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, pp. 4, 22;*
*Ellen Pearson, p. 23; Tom Yohe, p. 1*

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